

funds are spent on maintaining the headquarters staff. Yet they hardly help us at all now."

Q. "Let's get back to the social problems. You are now becoming (we are no longer afraid of the word) a banker and an entrepreneur, in that you are earning foreign currency. Are you able to spend it in the interests of your employees, and if so, how much could you spend?"

"The question is in the spirit of the times. But alas! the answer will be in the old style. I'm almost unable to say. Some 55 million roubles worth of foreign currency is being held to the credit of "Arkhangel'sklesprom" enterprises, which would be more than enough for us to build an up-to-date mill and purchase new production lines. This is what we have in mind.

"For the present, however, when there is nothing to buy in the shops, our first thought must be what to feed and clothe people with. It is extremely regrettable that so little is being done to meet their needs, even though we are doing what we are permitted to do. For example, we have received half a million roubles worth of confectionery from abroad. This is, of course, a drop in the bucket. It is in order to convert it into a flood that we will be expanding our coastal trade with the Scandinavian countries. Since April we have been granted the right to sell independently on world markets production that is over and above the plan. I don't think we shall let the opportunity slip."

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

May 27, 1989

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